

Question on Notice

No. 2003

Asked on Thursday 4 December 2008

MISS SIMPSON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1062 of 2007 regarding the State Government's funding commitments to Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy which states, 'The program was renewed for the period 2006-13 with a further funding commitment of \$15.38m (2006-07 \$)'—

(1) How much money has been allocated each year to this program throughout the stated 2006-2013 period (reported separately) and to what projects (reported separately with separate financial costings)?

(2) What rail level crossings in Queensland remain unfunded for additional safety upgrades and what are the estimated costs to provide the necessary upgrades (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I am advised

1) Under the Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy, funded by the State Government through the Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure) (the Contract)) 2006-2013, a total of \$15.38m (2006-07\$) or \$17.09m (Out turn \$s) has been allocated for safety assessments and improvements at level crossings on the non-commercial network supported by the Contract.

Total expenditure for the period July 2006, to September 2008 (inclusive), under the Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy is \$6.164m. The remaining funding of \$10.93m (Out turn \$s) is to be allocated across the remaining term of the contract with the program of works determined annually on a priority basis.

In 2008-09, over 265 crossings are planned for protection upgrades/improvements (both active and passive protection) across the commercial and non-commercial network. Planned active protection works for 2008-09 include:

- Tully High School - Flashing Lights (completed);
- Muirhead Street, Calliope - Flashing Lights (completed);
- Archer Street, South Townsville - Half Boom and Flashing Lights; and
- Allen Street, South Townsville - Half Boom and Flashing Lights.

2) All public open level crossings across Queensland have protection measures ranging from signs and road markings to active protection such as boom gates and flashing lights. Under the funding arrangements allocated to the Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy, all 1305 public level crossings on the non-commercial network have been assessed using the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model. This model is the national standard.

The upgrades required have been identified by local authorities and Department of Main Roads (Main Roads) in accordance with the model's risk assessments. Sufficient funds exist to complete the upgrade works currently identified as required.

The elimination of open level crossings through grade separations/underpasses/overpasses is outside the scope of Open Level Crossing Protection Strategy, with progression of elimination projects determined and funded by the relevant road authority (Main Roads or local councils).

All level crossings on the commercial rail network have been assessed using the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model and are compliant with that standard. As part of the ongoing rail capacity upgrade program being rolled out across the commercial network to cater for increased tonnages individual crossings are being re-assessed and control measures upgraded where necessary to ensure ongoing compliance. These works are being funded as part of the individual rail capacity upgrade projects.